

Books on the Bus



Community Schools of Frankfort are Making it Happen!



OUR SCHOOLS

We are a rural school district with 3,192 amazing students. We are located 50 miles northwest of Indianapolis. The free/reduced rate is currently 77%. We have three elementary schools, one middle and one high school. Our three elementary schools are school-wide Title I, and our middle school is targeted-assisted Title I. We have a graduation rate of 89.6%.

STUDENTS at the Community Schools of Frankfort demographically are 47.7% Hispanic, 49.7% White, 1.5% Multiracial, 0.8% Black, and 0.2% Asian, and 0.1% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. English and Spanish are the current languages our students speak within the district.

OUR DISTRICT utilizes a balanced literacy approach. We strive to send a message to students and families that valuing reading is incredibly important and it is important throughout their lives. Adding independent reading materials to our buses extends the independent reading time students have in their classrooms.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE The Community Schools of Frankfort is partnering with the Frankfort Community Public Library to provide Books on the Bus. This aligns with our district belief that "student achievement is a shared responsibility among students, parents, community, and all school employees." Decades of research shows that high volume readers are more successful in school and more likely to be life-long readers. As a district we believe strongly in this ideal, and we believe it is important to create space and time for readers throughout our school day and think outside the box for pockets of time where students may have access to books.

Donalyn Miller, author of *The Book Whisperer* and *Reading in the Wild*, speaks of the importance of showing students what it means to be a reader. She calls it "reading in the wild" - finding pockets in our day where we can fill our time and enjoy reading. Books on the Bus provides a perfect pocket of time for reading while students travel home at the end of a busy day of learning. Students may sit on their own or with a friend and share a good book. Older students may read to younger students. Some students may choose to simply browse the books. We want to provide environments where students know we value reading as an enjoyable activity not reading as an activity they only do for school. Choice reading is the way students will experience this as an enjoyable and collaborative activity which we believe they will want to continue as they grow and become adults.

OUR STEPS The Books on the Bus initiative began as an idea to provide our students additional time and books to read independently. After developing a partnership with the local library, our team worked to purchase high-interest books of varying levels and organized these materials into tubs. We held meetings with our bus drivers to explain the program and the importance for this extended time for reading. We created a space at the bus garage where books could be housed and exchanged so bus drivers could provide new texts for students as often as needed. Signs are displayed on the bus for students to know they have access to these books. Flyers were sent home to notify parents and guardians of the Books on the Bus program.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

"It is wonderful to see kids getting off the bus with books in their hands in the morning. They are ready to learn!"

Sherri Riegler, Reading Interventionist, Suncrest Elementary

"When I drive the bus for CSF, the kids are always picking out books to read!"

Tom Crowe, Bus Driver, CSF

"Collaborating with the Frankfort Community Public Library on the Books on the Bus program is extremely beneficial to our students. Providing this extended choice reading time contributes to the enjoyment of reading."

Don DeWeese, Superintendent

For more information about our school or corporation, email: mckinneyj@frankfort.k12.in.us or visit our website: <http://www.frankfortschools.org/>